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FEBRUARY 5, 2010

CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT HABITAT EXPANSION PLAN
REQUEST THAT LOWER YUBA RIVER ACTIONS BE SELECTED**

Dear Chief:

This letter is sent to provide comments on the draft "Habitat Expansion Plan for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and California Central Valley Steelhead." Specifically, I am requesting that the National Marine Fisheries Service select the proposed Lower Yuba River Habitat Expansion Actions over the proposed Three-Creek Actions (the Battle Creek, Big Chico Creek and Antelope Creek Habitat Expansion Actions).

I am a long-time resident and property owner in Smartsville, Yuba County, California. The lower Yuba River runs through our community. I have walked this section of the river, and I have been in it. This section of the Yuba River remarkably endured the destructive forces of the California Gold Rush. Its wild fish have done the same. It should be our obligation to restore their habitat that we destroyed.

During the past couple of years, I have worked as part of the collaborative effort of the Yuba River Preservation Foundation, South Yuba River Citizens' League, Western Aggregates and Yuba Outdoor Adventures, in connection with the fisheries habitat restoration plans for a proposed 3-mile Conservation Easement from Parks Bar Bridge downriver. I have listened to the expert consultants in River Science, Geomorphology, Biology, the Native Americans and the Anglers.

It is important to me to see this river and its fisheries thrive. In order to grow the Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and the California Central Valley Steelhead more resilient, the habitat expansion that is outlined in the proposed Lower Yuba River habitat expansion actions, is vital. These fish need side-channels and vegetation protection.

As set forth in the proposed Plan document, "The estimated contribution to the Habitat Expansion Threshold for the Lower Yuba River Actions is the highest of all of the actions considered." The Lower Yuba River Actions also appear to be the most cost-effective.

The specific proposed Lower Yuba River Actions that cause me to give my support to the Lower Yuba River Actions over the Three-Creek Actions, include (1) rehabilitating spawning habitat in the Englebright Dam reach, and augmenting gravel in lower Deer Creek which is a tributary to the Yuba River; and (2) restoring juvenile rearing habitat between the Highway 20 Parks Bar Bridge and the downstream extent of the Yuba Goldfields.

I believe that these habitat expansion actions should be implemented on the lower Yuba River, and that such implementation will result in expanded spawning, rearing and adult holding habitat for Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and Steelhead in the Sacramento River basin.

I respectfully request that the National Marine Fisheries Service select the Lower Yuba River Actions over the Three-Creek Actions. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Letty Litchfield".

Letty Litchfield